



File Code: 2230; 2210
Date: February 22, 2017

Dear Curt:

This document serves as your Spring 2017 Annual Operating Instructions for the Partridge Creek Allotment.

I. Authorized Livestock Numbers / Use Period

Your 2017 Authorized Use Request has been approved and you are authorized the following Livestock Numbers and Periods of Use:

225 Cattle (Cow / Calf) March 1, 2017 to April 30, 2017

* 95 Cattle (Cow / Calf) March 1, 2017 to April 30, 2017

** 95 Cow/calf suspended until additional assessments have verified the capacity of the allotment.*

The 2017 authorized livestock numbers and the authorized period of use were determined based on past stocking rates and allotment inspections the past seasons on the Partridge Creek Allotment.

Any changes to the 2017 authorized livestock numbers will require that you file an additional Authorize Use Request. Be advised that the Forest Service will need a minimum of 45 days to assess resource conditions and process a supplemental grazing bill for additional livestock. Please contact your Rangeland Management Specialist prior to making any decisions regarding increased livestock numbers.

II. Grazing Schedule:

Pasture	Time Frame
Little Aso	03/01-04/30 (100 cow/calf)
Big Aso	03/01-04/30 (35 cow/calf)
South / West Trap / Murray Trap	03/01-04/30 (100 cow/calf)
Indian / Bull Trap	03/01-04/30 (35 cow/calf)
Big Bill Trap	Incidental-shipping/gathering



Changes from the grazing schedule will be made only with Forest Service approval. The planned use period in a pasture may be shortened or lengthened depending on forage availability and utilization in key areas. Livestock pasture moves will be completed within a ten (10) day period and livestock will be actively herded from one pasture to another. It is imperative that once a pasture move occurs, the livestock remain within the designated pasture. For various reasons (i.e. pasture gates left open, cattleguards not maintained, cut fences, etc.), cattle may stray from the designated pasture. Preventing livestock from grazing adjacent allotments or your allotment's rested pastures is the permittee's responsibility.

Please notify us of cattle movements onto and off of the allotments, as well as refinements that may be needed to enhance the management system. If you identify the need to differ from this management system by more than 14 days, please contact District Range personnel at least two weeks in advance so that we have time to conduct monitoring and assess your request.

III. Drought Management:

Drought is an inevitable occurrence in the southwestern United States. Both the Forest Service and grazing permittees must plan for drought as a normal part of management. During periods of drought, the following management actions may be necessary:

1. Stocking levels may need to be reduced. Reductions may be necessary prior to the permitted season of use and/or during the permitted season of use.
2. Season of use may need to be shortened. Depending on the severity of the drought and the stocking level, a reduced grazing season may be necessary.
3. Pasture use periods may need to be shortened. Pastures will not be regrazed during the same grazing season and this may ultimately result in an early exit from the allotment.
4. Utilization and/or seasonal utilization (grazing intensity) standards may need to be reduced. Depending on the severity of the drought and the stocking level, reduced utilization standards will likely result in shortened pasture use periods and may ultimately result in an early exit from the allotment.
5. Lack of livestock water, or poor distribution of livestock water, may result in reduced pasture/allotment use periods. Depending on forage conditions, this effect may be mitigated by hauling water to temporary livestock watering facilities.
6. Allotment Management Plan direction for pastures requiring rest or deferment will be followed. Livestock use planned rest pastures due to drought will not be authorized.

IV. Grazing Strategy:

Graze livestock in a deferred, rest-rotation grazing system for the summer grazing period. The management of livestock pasture moves in this allotment will continue to be based upon seasonal utilization guidelines and allowable forage utilization standards.

V. Allowable Utilization Standards:

The maximum allowable level of utilization on herbaceous and non-riparian woody vegetation is 35%. This allowable use level is the utilization level permitted by both livestock and wildlife. If use levels in key areas exceed the maximum allowable utilization level before livestock enter a pasture, the pasture will not be used.

VI. Seasonal Utilization:

A light to moderate seasonal utilization guideline of up to 50% will be used within grazed pastures on the allotments. Seasonal utilization is defined as the amount of herbage removed through grazing or trampling during the grazing period. Seasonal utilization will be measured at the end of each pasture's livestock grazing period.

The seasonal utilization guideline will be the primary factor in determining when livestock need to move to the next pasture; but other factors such as climatic conditions, opportunity for plant growth, and previous year's utilization level will also be considered. Annual reductions in the seasonal utilization guideline may be made based on resource conditions.

VII. Resource Monitoring

Forage Utilization

Forage utilization within each pasture will be monitored and the allowable utilization standards (section IV) and the seasonal utilization guideline (section V) will be enforced. This may result in earlier pasture moves than indicated in the Grazing Schedule (section II).

Forage utilization monitoring will occur at locations within pastures using the "key area" concept. Key areas are defined as "...a portion of range, which because of its location, grazing or browsing value, and/or use, serve as an indicative sample of range conditions, trend, or degree of use seasonally. A key area guides the general management of the entire area of which it is a part." Key areas will generally have the following characteristics: they will be approximately 20 to 500 acres in size; they will be located on productive soils with slopes less than 15%; they will have a plant community that is representative of the larger area; and they will generally be located 0.25 to 1.0 miles away from livestock water sources.

Forage utilization monitoring and its specific application to your allotment should be discussed with your Rangeland Management Specialist. Permittee participation in utilization monitoring is encouraged.

Permittee Monitoring

The permittee will monitor and document the following items on the enclosed Actual Use and Forage Utilization Monitoring Form: 1) Actual Grazing Period; 2) Actual Livestock Numbers; and 3) Average Utilization of all forage species at two different time periods: Just prior to livestock entering the pasture, and immediately after livestock leave the pasture. **It is very important that this monitoring be completed during the time frames specified, and**

that the Forage Utilization Monitoring Form is submitted to your Rangeland Management Specialist at the end of the 2017 grazing period.

VIII. Range improvements

Construction of New Structural Range Improvements

There are no new structural range improvements scheduled for construction this year.

Removal of Structural Range Improvements

No removal of structural range improvements are planned for this grazing season.

Existing Structural Range Improvements

1. Clean the following dirt tanks: Murray Tank #7821, Yellow Cow Tank #7827, and Blue Cow Tank #7655. As mentioned above when it comes to cleaning out dirt tanks, all required clearances will need to be completed before hand. You must contact Range Specialist Cherie Owens and Archeologist Neil Weintraub ((928) 635-5647) for required clearances at least two weeks in advance of when you would like to begin work on Murray Tank, Yellow Cow Tank, and Blue Cow Tank.
2. General maintenance of fences throughout the allotment will continue as needed.

Please contact Range Specialist Cherie Owens once maintenance of individual structural range improvements is complete in order for her to conduct an inspection.

IX. Salting and Protein Block Practices

Supplemental feeding of livestock is allowed (to strategically manage livestock distribution and forage use) as follows:

1. Place supplements on previously disturbed areas (i.e., borrow pits) or natural bedrock outcrops when possible (supplement sites).
2. Locate supplement sites 0.25 mile or more from waters and key areas except where prior written permission has been obtained from the District Ranger.
3. Locate supplement sites where forage is abundant and utilized less than average.
4. Limit supplement types to non energy feeds such as salt, protein, and mineral blocks.
5. Use products that prevent the spread of noxious weeds, only certified weed free hay may be authorized on National Forest System Lands when snow has limited the use of available forage. The same considerations for distribution will apply when feeding hay as given above when using supplements.

X. Portable Water Hauling

Temporary sites for portable haul water may be needed and should be used as necessary to assist in livestock distribution. The following requirements will apply to portable haul water locations:

1. Coordinate with the District Rangeland Management Specialist to identify portable water haul locations for individual pastures prior to the grazing period.
2. To aid in livestock distribution, the portable water haul locations should generally be in areas of light forage utilization.
3. Portable water hauls will not be located in areas of depleted range, erosive soils, or sensitive plant or animal species.
4. Portable water haul locations will be moved when the desired forage utilization levels have been reached.
5. Portable haul water storage tanks and troughs will be removed when livestock leave the pasture.

XI. Fire

Please use caution during all ranch activities that could potentially start a fire. All ranch vehicles must be equipped with an axe, shovel, and water bucket. All open camp and branding fires require a ten foot fire ring cleared down to mineral soil.

During periods of critical fire danger the Forest Supervisor may declare a Red Flag Alert or issue other special orders. Under these conditions, the building or use of fires, the use of power saws, heave equipment, ATVs and other motorized equipment may be prohibited on Forest Service land. All Federal, State and Local fire restrictions and regulations must be observed.

Report all fires to the Williams Ranger District Office at (928) 635-5600 or to the Kaibab National Forest Supervisors Office at (928) 635-8200.

Cooperation in the reporting, prevention, and suppression of fires will be expected as specified in Part 2, section 10 of your Term Grazing Permit.

XII. Motor Vehicle Use / Restrictions

On July 9, 2010, the Travel Management Rule (TMR) has been implemented on the Williams Ranger District of the Kaibab National Forest. Implementation of TMR will require active management of all motorized use, including that related to permitted grazing activities. Motorized travel off the designated road system by grazing permit holders should be based on need related to carrying out the required management practices. Legitimate motorized use, including cross-country access, needed for conducting activities required under Term

Grazing Permits will be authorized unless compelling natural and/or heritage resource issues are evident.

Any unplanned or emergency type travel not previously contemplated in the Term Grazing Permit will be discussed with appropriate authorization and guidance established in the AOI. If access is required in a motor vehicle restricted area or on a closed road, you must have special authorization in the form of an Off-Road Vehicle Permit or specific authorization through your AOI.

XIII. Permittee Review

On February 9, 2017 Cherie Owens met with Curt Wells to develop and discuss the 2017 Summer Annual Operating Instructions for the Partridge Creek Allotment. The permittee has reviewed and agreed with these instructions. The following is the planned grazing sequence for the 2017 grazing period. The pasture move dates shown are an estimate and may need to be amended based on actual conditions.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Rangeland Management Specialist Cherie Owens at (928) 635-5621 or cowens02@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

Danelle D. Harrison

DANELLE D. HARRISON
Williams and Tusayan District Ranger